

Date: October 11, 2001 Label No. EL795622418US

I hereby certify that, on the date indicated above, I deposited this paper with identified attachments and/or fee with the U.S. Postal Service and that it was addressed for delivery to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 by "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service.

Sandra Stocklinski

Name (Print)

Sandra Stocklinski

Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

)

)

MAHMUD et al.

)

)

Application No.: New Continuation Application

)

Of U.S. Application No. 09/453,419

)

Parent Group Art Unit : 1714

)

Filed: October 11, 2001

)

Parent Examiner: P. SZEKELY

For: A METHOD OF MAKING A MULTI-PHASE AGGREGATE
USING MULTI-STAGE PROCESS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

October 11, 2001

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fees and examination of the above-identified new continuation patent application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please substitute the following amended parts of the specification as indicated in the above-identified application. (A version of the amended specification with markings to show the changes made is also attached.)

Please delete the paragraph beginning on line 4 and ending on line 6 of page 1 and insert the following:

Preliminary Amendment

This application is a continuation application of U.S. Application No. 09/453,419, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/375,044 filed August 16, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,211,279, which in turn is a divisional of U.S. Application No. 09/061,871, filed April 17, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,057,387, which in turn is a Continuation-In-Part application of U.S. Application No. 08/837,493, filed April 18, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,904,762, which is incorporated in its entirety by reference herein.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at line 15 and ending at line 30 on page 13 and replace it with the following:

It is preferred that a diluent is also present in any feedstock including the silicon-containing compound. The diluent should be volatilizable and/or decomposable since it will be preferably injected into the reactor along with the silicon-containing compound. The diluent can as well also serve as a carbon black-yielding feedstock. For instance, the diluent can comprise alcohol or mixtures thereof which can serve as the carbon black-yielding feedstock as well as the diluent. The diluent is preferably capable of increasing the mass flow rate of the feedstock in which it is contained and/or is capable of lowering the temperature of the reactor at about the point of introduction of the feedstock which contains the diluent. The lower temperature assists in causing the silica domain aggregate to be finer and more numerous. The diluent can comprise a liquid and/or a gas and is preferably miscible with the silicon-containing compounds though this is not necessary. Further examples of diluents are water and aqueous based solutions. The diluent can be present in any amount and is preferably present in amounts which will increase the mass flow rate of the feedstock and/or lower the temperature of the reactor at about the point of introduction of the feedstock. The diluent can also be included in feedstocks which do not contain any silicon-containing compound, or can be introduced in a separate stage.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at line 31 of page 18 and ending at line 2 on page 19 and replace it with the following:

In general, diazonium salts are thermally unstable. They are typically prepared in a solution at low temperatures, such as 0-5°C, and used without isolation of the salt. Heating solutions of some

Preliminary Amendment

diazonium salts may liberate nitrogen and form either the corresponding alcohols in acidic media or the organic free radicals in basic media.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please delete claims 1-58 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

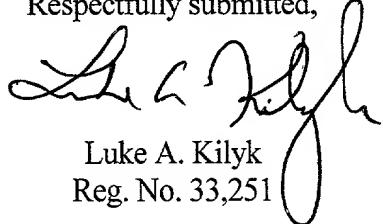
Preliminary Amendment

REMARKS

Examination of the claims as pending in view of the above amendment is respectfully requested. Full support exists for the amendment in view of the application, including the claims, as originally filed.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to deposit Account No. 03-0060. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Luke A. Kilyk
Reg. No. 33,251

Atty. Docket No. 97020CIP2CON2 (3600-091-04)
KILYK & BOWERSOX, P.L.L.C.
53A Lee Street
Warrenton, VA 20186
Tel: (540) 428-1701
Fax.: (540) 428-1720

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please delete the paragraph beginning on line 4 and ending on line 6 of page 1 and insert the following:

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Preliminary Amendment

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Sandra Stocklinski
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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MAHMUD et al.)
Application No.: New Continuation Application)
Of U.S. Application No. 09/453,419) Parent Group Art Unit: 1714
Filed: October 11, 2001) Parent Examiner: P. SZEKELY

For: A METHOD OF MAKING A MULTI-PHASE AGGREGATE
USING MULTI-STAGE PROCESS

SUBMISSION OF FORMAL DRAWINGS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

October 11, 2001

Sir:

Submitted herewith is one (1) sheet of formal drawings (Figure 1), for the above-identified application.

In the event any fees are required in connection with this paper, please charge Deposit Account No. 03-0060.

Respectfully submitted,

Luke A. Kilyk
Reg. No. 33,251

Atty. Docket No. 97020CIP2CON2 (3600-091-04)
KILYK & BOWERSOX, P.L.L.C.
53A Lee Street
Warrenton, VA 20186
Tel: (540) 428-1701
Fax.: (540) 428-1720
Enclosure: One (1) Sheet of Formal Drawings

SCANNED, # 8

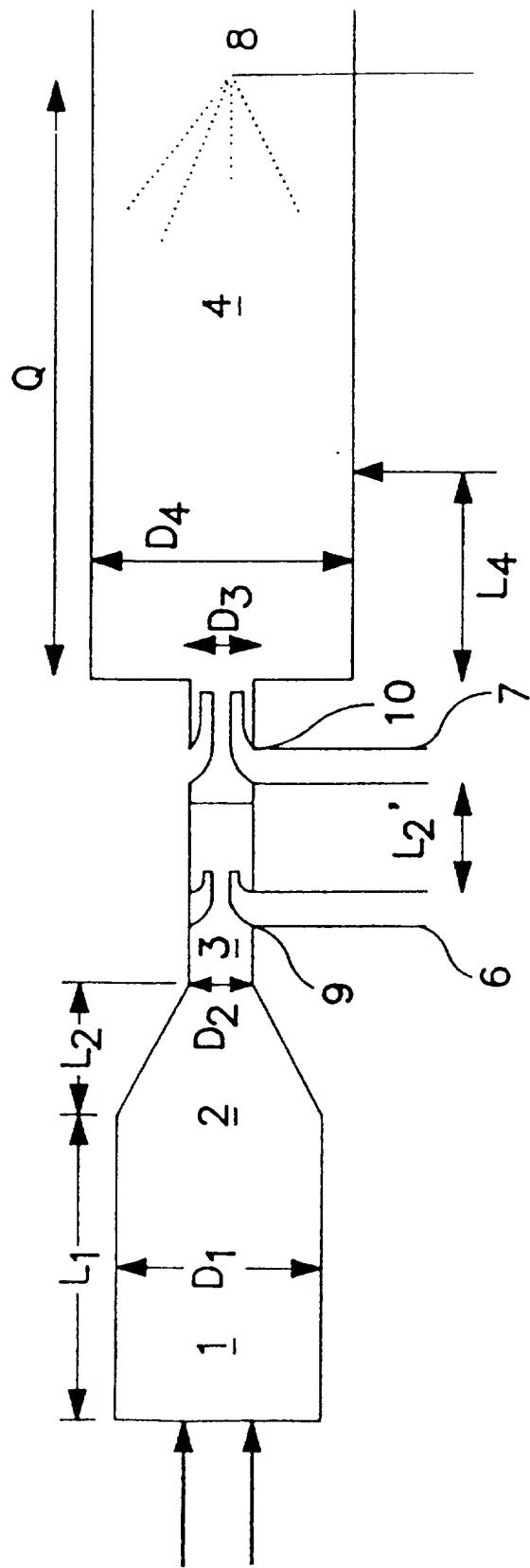


FIG. 1

J1050 U.S. PTO
09/1975 699
10/11/01